

THE PENINSULAR INTERIOR

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kharif, especially on heavier soils which, with the intense May heat and late start of considerable rains, may not be workable till August. While groundnut is the kharif cash crop, cotton is entirely rabi. Jowar is grown for fodder as well as grain; ragi and other millets as well as rice are often wet crops; and millets are sown mixed with pulses, which take longer to mature and are a safeguard against the failure of the cereals. Most of these features point to the general precariousness of the agriculture in the region, which as a whole is a food-deficit area.

Differences of expert opinion in the two states long impeded work on the great dam, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and 160 ft high, being built across the Tunga-

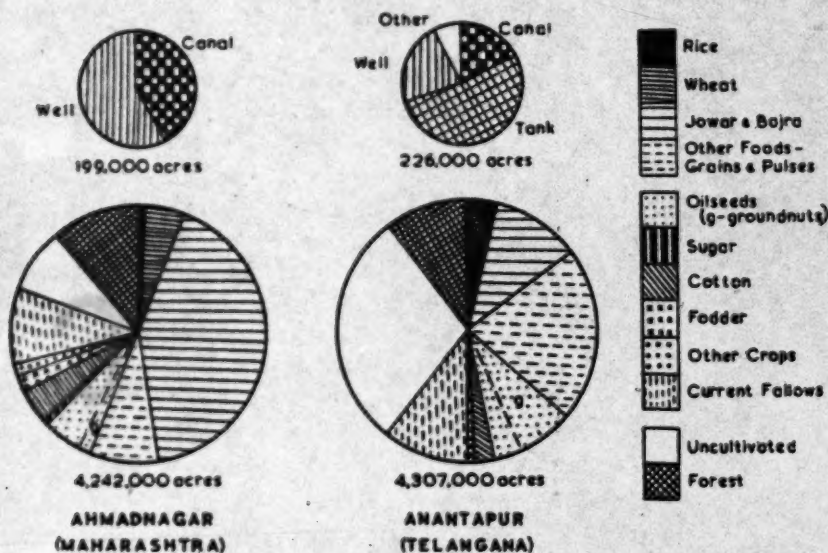


Fig. 136.—THE LAVA/ARCHANA CONTRAST. Upper circles represent areas irrigated.

bhadra: this will irrigate 600,000 ac. in Hyderabad and 300,000 in Madras, as well as generating about 150,000 kW. But the execution of the 7 major and some of the 32 minor projects in Hyderabad, which together might command 3.5 m. ac. and produce 500,000 kW, probably lies in an indefinite future. Terrain and climate impose severe limitations on Telangana, and the unlucky history of the Kurnool project (below, 680) suggests that a cautious policy may be essential for real progress.

Other Resources; Settlement and Towns

The mineral resources of Telangana are scattered and little exploited. The most important production is probably that of Gondwana coal, mined chiefly at Singareni; in NE Hyderabad are some outliers of the great iron

135 zone of the Orissa Hills. There are small deposits of lead (Nalgonda),
 316 copper and mica (Raichur), and graphite (Warangal), while the Ceded Districts have non-ferrous metals (manganese, antimony), corundum, and barytes; but most of the minerals here are associated with the bordering ranges to the E, and in any case are almost untouched. Golconda diamonds belong to history—and legend—rather than to modern economy. The forest resources around the Godavari are not very accessible, though it would seem that more use might be made of the river itself as an outlet, and power might be available from the rapids where it crosses the En Hills.

161 Population densities are not high—170-200 in the Ceded Dts, 160-220 in
 361 Hyderabad. Villages are essentially tied to waterpoints, often in association with tanks, and generally built of mud or stone set in mud, with thatched roofs.²²

369 Apart from Hyderabad City, towns are few and small. Warangal (133,130)
 471 is the largest, and of merely local importance; Bellary (56,148) is an important railway town and has small sugar and vanaspati (vegetable ghee) mills. Otherwise, except for cotton ginning and so on, industrial development is negligible: in 1949 Hyderabad had only 60,000 factory workers (probably mostly in the capital), 26,000 miners, 22,000 railwaymen.

369 Hyderabad (1,085,722) was in 1941 the fourth Indian city; it has since been outstripped by Delhi (Old and New together). Founded in 1589 by the Muslim king of Golconda, it was the capital of the Mogul Viceroyalty of the Deccan and of the independent state which arose on the Mogul ruins; old Golconda, an impressive hill-fortress, lies 5 miles to the W. The
 [197] significance of Hyderabad is essentially administrative and cultural, as is evidenced by the high proportions of Urdu and Tamil speakers; the former represent the semi-feudal class dominant in the state until 1948, the latter the clerkly bureaucracy. The city is close-packed, mostly unplanned, with palaces perhaps more remarkable for size than beauty, surrounded by vast tanks. Most notable of modern buildings is perhaps the fine Osmania University. Six miles to the N is the enormous cantonment of Secunderabad, designed to afford protection to Our Faithful Ally the Nizam, and perhaps not less to ensure his continued faithfulness—a precaution not unwarranted in the stirring and in all senses intriguing days when the rising British power was at grips with the Marathas and the Mysore of Haidar Ali and Tipu, and when French influence was not altogether dead in the Deccan.

Telangana: Aspect and Prospect

[661] Hyderabad, with its 82,313 sq mls and 18,655,108 people, its own internal posts (with yellow pillar-boxes), its integration of road services with the
 631 Nizam's State Railway, and with a reasonably good administration, was a

²² W. Burns (ed.), *Sons of the Soil* (1941), 5.

- 311 President was responsible for keeping : 1. the accounts book, 2. permit bills, 3. permit holder's register, 4. offence register was reported for 10 years, 5. a diary for recording the results of the inspection by the members and the President, and 6. map of the forest.

Whenever any offence was detected all the Forest Panchayatdars and Forest Panchayat Dy. Tahasildars and some Presidents of Forest Panchayats were empowered to compound the offences, when the value of the property damaged or compounded did not exceed Rs. 50/- Penalty should not exceed 3 times the grazing fee rates, in case of felling a tree, not more than 3 times the value of the property involved, and in the matter of forest goat browsing not more than 5 times the rate of sheep grazing fees. In the case of repeated or subsequent offence, the maximum might be exceeded. Minor fuel coups might be worked for meeting the domestic and agricultural needs of the village after the sanction of the Collector. One coup for the year might be marked. This fuel was not to be sold by auction. It was to be cut by the Panchayat through hired labour and to be sold to the villages by the issue of permits at the rates fixed by the Collector. Major fuel coups might be worked for supplying fuel to a town or a factory according to a plan approved by the Collector and the District Forest Officer in consultation with the Forest Panchayat. The coups were sold by public auction by the Deputy Forest Tahsildar with the help of the Panchayat and the proceeds were credited to Government except the incidental expenditure incurred for the cutting of wood which would be credited to the Panchayat.

[316] Similarly for quarrying, seignorage rates were fixed in the agreement subject to certain conditions of which one was that any quarrying conducted under this agreement should be confined to the ground vertically beneath the site of the locality covered by the agreement, and no quarrying beyond the area should be permitted. The Forest Panchayat should during the period of the agreement keep the premises in good and substantial repairs excepting the necessary and reasonable damages caused by quarrying.

D. Supervision and Control: The Forest Panchayat Deputy Tahsildars did the initial supervision while over them were the Revenue Divisional Officers and the District Collectors,

311 Panchayat, for instance in Bayyavaram Forest Panchayat in Vizagapa-
651 tam, the rate of grazing per cow was Re 0-6-0, per buffalo Re. 0-12-0 and per sheep Re. 0-3-0 and for fuel each chit for head-load was charged at only Re. 0-0-6.

The grazing rates in Bellary for instance again varied similarly from one Forest Panchayat to another. In Chigetheri Forest Panchayat whose extent in area was 2686.83 acres, the rates of grazing permits were Re. 0-5-0 per cow, Re. 0-10-0 per buffalo, and Re. 0-2-6 per sheep. In Haskanhal, the rates were Re. 0-6-0 per cow. In Kodattu the rates for cow, buffalo and sheep were Re. 0-6-0, Re. 0-12-0 and Re. 0-3-0, respectively.

[314] The income from minor forest produce also varied from one Forest Panchayat to another depending on the nature of the forest produce available, i. e. Tangedu, Avaram, Garualmia, Margosa, sandal-wood, Kasangaddi, Kluesklues, Tamarind, Mustard and the game like deer, peacock, dove, etc.

[316] Quarrying fees were collected in Panchayats like Bayyavaram in Vizagapatam and Betamcherla in Kurnool. Such examples were to be found even in Bellary.

Bayyavaram Forest Panchayats usually sold the fuel coups at a cost not less than Rs. 1000, remitting the same to the treasury. Of this only 10 per cent was given to the Panchayat. It sold fuel dead-woods at Re. 0-0-6 per head load, Re. 0-6-0 per cart-load, Re. 0-1-0 per shoulder-load etc., and levied quarrying fees of Re. 0-2-0 and Re. 0-1-0 per cart load of chisled and unchisled stone respectively.

Income from fuel coups was rarely seen except in Panchayats of the Ceded Districts as that of Bellary, e. g. Jaga the biggest toward Hospet and Dhemaketupalli near Hindupur, in Anantapur. Here the Government of the neighbouring four areas were keeping their wood in Government Depots. The ordinary dead wood was allowed to be sold as usual on the basis of permits.

311 One peculiar feature of the budget of the Forest Panchayats was the
652 large balances that accrued from year to year. There was no systematic planning of expenditure for useful purposes by these Panchayats. Panchayats were responsible for the payment of watchers, pay and dress, maintenance and the protection of the reserves from damages of illicit grazing, fire, and theft of firewood and forest produce, the preservation of cairns, the cleanliness, orderliness, etc. Greater the extent of the Panchayat area, greater the number of watchers and greater consequently was the expenditure.